in the country envisages:

— Replacement of Technologically obsolete switches with digital switches.

— Computerisation of Manual Trunk Services in SSA Headquarters.

— Gradual introduction of Wireless in local loop, HDSL (High Speed Digital Subscriber Loop) ADSL (Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Loop) and Optical Fibre Technologies in the local network.

— Introduction of Common Channel Signalling No. 7 upto DHQ level alongwith synchronisation of transmission and switching network.

— Introduction of better and reliable technologies for providing Village Public Telephones.

— Replacement of all life expired and unserviceable analogue systems by digital systems.

नागर उड्डानों के लिए प्रयोग किए जा रहे रक्षा विभाग के विमानपत्तन

*258. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या त्रिपुरा में भारतीय वायु सेना के कुछ विमानपत्तनों का प्रयोग नागर उड़ानों के परिचालन के लिये किया जाता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे कौन-कौन से विमानपत्तन हैं तथा इनका प्रयोग कब से किया जा रहा है;

(ग) क्या भारतीय वायु सेना के अधिकारियों के द्वारा लागू किए गए सुरक्षात्मक और प्रशासनिक नियंत्रणों के कारण यात्रियों को इन विमानपत्तनों पर असुविधाओं का सामना करना पड़ता है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस संबंध में क्या उपचारात्मक उपाय करने का विचार रखती है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव): (क) जी, नहीं। त्रिपुरा में भारतीय वायु सेना का कोई भी हवाई-अड्डा नहीं है।

(ख) से (घ) उपर्युक्त (क) को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Violation of Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987

*259. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale violation of the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987, by certain industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of cases registered against such industries for violation of the aforesaid Act during the last three years;

(c) the action taken by Government against those industries; and

(d) the steps taken for strict compliance of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Government are aware that the cement industry in particular has continued to violate the provisions of the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987 on various pretexts. The fertiliser (Urea) industry also disobeyed provisions of this Act to a large extent till September/October 1996. However, most of them have lately started abiding by the Statutory Reservation Order for Urea packaging. The following statement shows usage of Jute Packaging Materials by cement and fertiliser (urea) sectors vis-a-vis calculated requirement in terms of the Statutory Reservation Order from 1993-94 to 1996-97 (upto Oct., 1996):—

April/March	Production of Cement by large plants (Mn.M.T.)	Requirement of jute bags for full compliance of mandatory order (000M.T.)	Actual offtake of jute bags (000 M.T.)	Extent of default in terms of percentage
I. CEMENT				
1993-94	54.1	340.7	9.2	97.3
1994-95	58.4	367.8	1.0	99.7
1995-96	64.2	288.9	0.3	99.9
1996-97 (upto Oct.)	39.3	176.8	0.0	100.0
II. FERTILISER (Urea)				
1993-94	13.15	118.4	80.2	32.3
1994-95	14.13	127.1	85.5	32.7
1995-96	15.79	71.1	56.2	20.9
1996-97 (Upto Oct.)	8.61	38.7	18.9	51.2

NOTES: (1) Requirement of jute bags for both cement and urea has been worked out as per manadatory percentage of use of jute bags on the basis of:—
(i) Cement Bags of 450 gms of 50 kg capacity taken into account.
(ii) Urea: 450 gms. of D.W.T. cloth per bag.

No cases could be registered against any of the defaulting units for violation of the aforesaid Act so far due mainly to fact that matter was subjudice in the Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) Instructions have been sent to all urea manufacturing units informing them about the decision of the Central Government about the extension of the validity period of the Reservation Order beyond 30.6.96 from time to time with advice to comply with the said Orders on pain of penal action. In response to these letters most of them have assured to use jute bags upto specified percentage during the October 1996 quarter and thereafter as required under law. Monthly returns being received from them during the recent months reveal an encouraging improvement in the utilisation of jute bags.

All cement and urea manufacturing units in the country have been advised to submit monthly returns in prescribed format within the prescribed time schedule without fail on a regular basis with a view to monitoring closely the progress of utilisation of jute bags vis-a-vis the statutory Reservation Order.

Show-cause notices have been issued to several cement and urea companies who have been found to be continuously violating the Reservation Order. While the urea units have assured full compliance cement units have pointed out certain legal and practical problems preventing them from complying with this Order. The opinion of the Ministry of Law has been obtained by us in regard to the future course of action to be taken on the basis of the replies to the show-cause notices received from the defaulting cement units.

Role of Central Silk Board in development and production of silk

*260 SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Silk Board has been neglecting North-East region and Madhya Pradesh and favouring Karnataka in production and use of silk and textiles; and

(b) if not, details of projects in this regard in Karnataka and North-East during the last five years

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The programmes/projects for the development/expansion of production of silk in the States are primarily undertaken by the concerned State